

THIS OPINION WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR PUBLICATION

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today (1) was not written for publication in a law journal and (2) is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 50

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte YOSHIHIKO AIHARA,
MASAYOSHI YAMAMICHI
and MASAHERA FUJINO

Appeal No. 96-3305
Application 07/607,147¹

ON BRIEF

Before URYNOWICZ, THOMAS and HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judges.

HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 22 through 36.

¹ Application for patent filed October 31, 1990. According to appellants, this application is a continuation of Application 07/471,034, filed January 26, 1990, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application 07/267,655, filed November 3, 1988, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application 07/012,862, filed February 10, 1987, now abandoned.

The disclosed invention relates to an accessory device (i.e., a lens) that is mounted onto a camera. A power source 2 in the camera supplies power to a drive motor 9 and an electrical circuit 10 located in the lens (Figure 1). A first ground line L3,L10 is used to ground lens motor 9, and a second ground line L4,L11 is used to ground electrical circuit 10.

Claim 26 is illustrative of the claimed invention, and it reads as follows:

26. An accessory device constituting at least part of a photographic optical system and adapted to be mounted on a camera, said camera including a power source therein, a mount, a first electric circuit for producing control signals, first terminal means for outputting said control signals, second terminal means for supplying power from said power source, and first and second ground terminals for said power source, said first and second ground terminals being connected to said power source through separate electrical conductors, said accessory device comprising:

- (a) means for attaching the accessory device onto said mount of the camera;
- (b) third terminal means to be connected with said second terminal means when said accessory device is mounted on the camera and third and fourth ground terminals to be independently connected with said first and second ground terminals, respectively;
- (c) fourth terminal means to be connected with said first terminal means when said accessory device is mounted on the camera;
- (d) a motor circuit connected to said third terminal means and said third ground terminal, and being supplied with power through said third terminal means and said third ground terminal, first electrical conductor means being connected between said third terminal means and said third ground terminal; and
- (e) a second electric circuit having input terminal means and connected to said third terminal means and said fourth ground terminal, said second electric circuit being supplied with power through said third terminal means and said fourth ground terminal, second electrical conductor means embodied separately from said first electrical conductor means being connected between said third terminal means and said fourth ground terminal, and the input terminal means connected with said fourth terminal means

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to operate said second electrical circuit in accordance with control signals provided through said fourth terminal means.

The references relied on by the examiner are:

Kawabata	4,472,040	Sept. 18, 1984
Harada et al. (Harada)	4,790,649	Dec. 13, 1988 (filed Jan. 2, 1985)
Yamada et al. (Yamada)	4,862,208	Aug. 29, 1989 (effective filing date Feb. 12, 1986)

Claims 22 through 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kawabata in view of Yamada and Harada.

Reference is made to the briefs and the answers for the respective positions of the appellants and the examiner.

OPINION

The obviousness rejection of claims 22 through 36 is reversed.

All of the claims on appeal specifically require inter alia separate ground lines running from the power source in the camera to the motor and the electrical circuit in the lens.

Kawabata discloses (Figures 4 and 5) a lens electrical circuit comprised of resistor 40 and a lens motor 39 that are both grounded (presumably in common to the chassis of the camera). Kawabata does not disclose the separate ground lines required by the claims on appeal.

Yamada discloses (Figure 4) a single ground line 44,53 that extends from the power source 32 in camera 31 to the control circuit 36 and drive motor 37 in lens 35. Thus, Yamada cannot disclose the separate ground lines required by the claims on appeal.

Harada merely discloses a ground connection GND between the camera and the lens (Figures 3 and 6). The separate ground lines required by the claims on appeal are not disclosed by Harada.

Based upon the foregoing, we agree with the appellants' argument (Substitute Brief, paper number 40, pages 12 and 13) that the applied references fail to "disclose or suggest the accessory . . . motor and control circuit having respective separate ground path conductors"

In summary, the obviousness rejection of claims 22 through 36 is reversed.

DECISION

The decision of the examiner rejecting claims 22 through 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is reversed.

REVERSED

STANLEY M. URYNOWICZ
Administrative Patent Judge

JAMES D. THOMAS

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BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS AND
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